

HYDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
HYDE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010

Board members present: Mark Freeman, Jim Lipinski, Dan Regan, Kalee Roberts, Raven Walters.

Others: Michelle Mathias, Debra Taylor, Marilyn Frederick.

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

Items highlighted for follow-up are shown like this.

**1. Call to Order**

J. Lipinski called the meeting to order at 6:36.

**2. Approve Consent Agenda (Minutes from 11/15/2010, Principal's Report)**

**K. Roberts moved to approve the consent agenda, M. Freeman seconded, and the motion was passed.**

**3. Class Size Policy – Other Policy Issues**

D. Taylor distributed copies of the LNSU class size policy. She said each board is required to adopt a policy, which has to incorporate that there will be class size guidelines. The board can charge M. Mathias and D. Taylor with developing the guidelines. K. Roberts said she is a little concerned about being pulled along into an SU decision that may be influenced by circumstances in other schools. D. Regan said there is no question that we have to have a policy. Our job is to either adopt our own version or say we subscribe to the LNSU policy. J. Lipinski suggested it might be better to have a firmer policy than the LNSU one. D. Regan said he wouldn't want to be tied to guidelines without provisions like those in the LNSU policy, describing how class sizes will vary as necessary depending on circumstances. D. Taylor said current HPES class sizes are all within recommended ranges. This policy will not take away any authority. The board can still decide to add or reduce a teacher if it wants. Several changes were suggested to make the policy specific to HPES: changing the first sentence in #2 to begin "Class size guidelines at HPES shall vary as necessary . . ."; changing the first sentence to begin "It is the intent of the Hyde Park Elementary School Board"; and changing #4 to begin "The principal shall report . . ."

J. Lipinski said he thinks the board needs to finish its development work first before getting into work on other policies. D. Taylor said she recommends taking a close look at all policies as soon as the values work is done, to make sure the board is in compliance.

K. Roberts said she thinks we have all the required policies.

**4. Preschool and Kindergarten Space Planning**

K. Roberts said if we put preschool in a room with a bathroom, we don't have to have an aide in that classroom. M. Mathias said we have 15 kids per section now, and because we are in school improvement we can exceed that enrollment. D. Taylor said preschool regs call for a 1:10 adult/child ratio. There is also a certain number of square feet required per student.

D. Regan said we could predict space needs if we had good demographic information about family sizes and structures in the Hyde Park area. D. Taylor said, for next year, we can look at town records for births and trends in the SU and neighboring districts. We can also get the word out and do a child find. D. Regan said he will try to see how communities can gain access to census data.

K. Roberts said she thinks we need a better space for preschool, and we need to accept that sometimes we will have 3 kindergarten classes. J. Lipinski asked, should we be looking into building a bathroom? K. Roberts said she thinks we should, and we should use the 4 rooms in the area where first grade is now for preschool and 3 kindergarten classes. M. Freeman asked, could we put in a door to connect the bathroom to the preschool room? M. Mathias said we need those bathrooms for kids in gym and lunch. The idea of moving 1<sup>st</sup> graders upstairs was discussed. (D. Taylor left at 7:22.) M. Mathias said classrooms are all paired now, so kids can go between rooms without going into the halls, which is very useful. There was discussion about various possibilities and why they might or might not be better than using the room previously used as the third kindergarten room when needed.

K. Roberts said she thinks we need to look at the cost of putting in or altering a bathroom and understand what age groups can be on the second floor or above, and be ready for a 3<sup>rd</sup> kindergarten class that doesn't have the problems the last one did. M. Freeman said he thinks we need to look at numbers. Is it hard to announce early registration? M. Mathias said she can do that; she can do some outreach. R. Walters asked, what about renting space off campus? K. Roberts said she thinks there are a lot of problems with putting kids in buildings built for residential use. All agreed that we need some information and answers to questions. J. Lipinski said he thinks we need to keep talking about this.

5. ***FY12 Budget Development – Challenges for Change Target***

M. Frederick said we have \$35,950 in reserve from the HVAC project. She proposes using that to cover the expense of the note and interest. If the board decides to do that, then we will have enough revenues to cover the proposed expenditures. The final number for expenses is \$3,409,190.62. M. Frederick went through the budget, discussing the different items. She said if the board takes her recommendation to use the HVAC reserve of \$35,950 to cover principal and interest on the HVAC project, then we end up about \$970 better than the target.

M. Mathias said they are now saying there will be no SIG funds for Tier III schools next year. Tami Hugulet has done so much work, it would be a travesty to eliminate the math coach position. D. White and D. Taylor are looking at the possibility of LNSU paying for half of her position so she could do some work for them. A lot of the work she is doing could be used across the SU. The school desperately needs her position, which is not in this budget, because it has been paid for by SIG funds.

J. Lipinski said we can say we will meet the target if the state honors its previous commitment. K. Roberts said another big pot of money is the \$33 million that is available for assessment. Since T. Hugulet's work is directly related to assessment, maybe could be a source of funding M. Mathias and M. Frederick thought that was a good idea. M.

Mathias said there was discussion about us getting some support for being a pilot RtI school for math.

K. Roberts proposed putting back the co-curricular and field trip money that was taken out of the budget (about \$6500.) D. Regan said he thinks field trips are core learning activities, not enrichment. R. Walters said if we say we have been able to make the cuts, people will think we were wasting money before, unless they see the impact of the cuts on kids. We need to spell out clearly what the impact will be. D. Regan said finding the right balance in the budget presentation will be critical. We will need to have dry runs early enough. K. Roberts said the reality is that a great deal of the money cut is in special ed. Being able to cut that due to current needs doesn't mean we were wasteful before; it's fortuitous that we are able to make the cuts now. K. Roberts said we can say that we intend to make a budget that meets the target. J. Lipinski said if the SIG or other grants don't come through, the budget we present won't be this one. M. Mathias said she thinks VSBA or some other group should pass a resolution calling for the legislature to put an immediate moratorium on any more current use applications until they fix the loopholes. The education industry needs to make that demand. The board agreed to add back co-curricular and field trip funds.

**MOTION: J. Lipinski moved to direct the superintendent to report to the Vermont Department of Education that Hyde Park Elementary School intends on meeting its Challenges for Change target contingent upon the state fulfilling its prior commitments regarding School Improvement Grant funds and continuation of other grant revenues. K. Roberts seconded, and the motion was passed.**

6. ***School Action Plan***

M. Mathias will send out copies of the plan, and board members will get comments to her by next Monday. The board will vote on approving it at the Dec. 20 meeting.

7. ***Review of Lengels' Walkthrough***

It was agreed to schedule a meeting on January 10 to work on developing our own script. Those who attended the first meetings with the Lengels, and anyone else who is interested, will be invited. People will break up into small groups to work on the script. J. Lipinski will compose a letter to the Lengels (which he will first send to the board) explaining our plan to work on the script and then send it to them for review.

R. Walters asked has if anyone has done any work on the slide show in school with the kids M. Mathias said no. K. Roberts said she thinks whoever will be working with the kids should come to the meeting on January 10.

8. ***Board Development Work – Core Purpose***

This was postponed.

9. ***Other***

M. Mathias showed videos from the art page of the HPES website.

10. ***Adjourn***

**K. Roberts moved to adjourn, D. Regan seconded, the motion was passed, and the board adjourned at 9:29.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*

**Items highlighted for follow-up:**

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